

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 34

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Frederick William Rawlins of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Frederick William "Bill" Rawlins; and

WHEREAS, Bill Rawlins was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a diligent, dedicated and talented journalist, Mr. Rawlins served with acumen and alacrity for forty-six years as a reporter with the Associated Press, covering Tennessee state government and politics as a member of the Capitol Hill Press Corps for the last twenty years of his career before his retirement in 1994; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pleasantville, Iowa, Bill Rawlins obtained his first newspaper job in Wyoming as a carrier for Denver's *Rocky Mountain News* and later began working part-time for the Associated Press (AP) in 1948 while a student at the University of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, later joining the Albuquerque bureau of the Associated Press as a full-time reporter, Mr. Rawlins transferred to the AP's Nashville bureau in 1952 and a year later to the Knoxville bureau; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Bill Rawlins' singular talents as a journalist were appropriately recognized when he was named the Associated Press' correspondent for Chattanooga, in which fair city he acquired the nickname "Rocky" and covered the infamous jury-tampering trial and conviction of Teamsters' boss, Jimmy Hoffa; and

WHEREAS, named the Associated Press' state editor in 1964, Rocky Rawlins returned to Nashville and assumed the title of news editor in 1971 before being selected to serve as the Capitol Hill correspondent for the AP a year later; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rawlins won the respect and admiration of those he covered on Capitol Hill for his astute and meticulous reporting and his dedication to providing his readers with insight and understanding on complex issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rawlins was also deeply devoted to his family and enjoyed the love and companionship of his beloved wife of fifty-five years, Suzanne Rawlins, and his two children and their spouses, Drew and Missy Rawlins and Ruth and Phil Colgan, as well as his treasured grandchildren, Tyler Colgan, Andy Rawlins and Austin Colgan; and

WHEREAS, Bill Rawlins leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Frederick William Rawlins, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Rawlins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.